



BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1896.

BEWDLEY:—

Printed and Published by F. R. & T. C. DALLEY.



TO THE  
Tolun Council of Belwdley

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January 6th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

Death Rate

During the year ending December 31st, 1896, there were 53 deaths registered in the Borough, the death rate being 18.43 per 1000 per annum. This shows a decrease of 2.43 in the annual death rate as compared with last year. A full report as to the cause of death, and the ages of the people dying will be found in Table A. which is appended, from which it will be seen that 31 of these deaths were either under one year, or over 65 years.

Birth Rate

There were 84 births during the same period, the birth rate being 29.20 per annum per 1000, as compared with 22.2 last year.

Zymotic  
Disease

Under the notification of Infectious Diseases Act, there were notified :

1	case of Typhoid Fever	over 5
1	„ Erysipelas	under 5
2	cases of „	over 5

I was not able to trace the source of the one case of Typhoid Fever notified. The water at the house was examined by the County Analyst and found satisfactory. All precautions were taken to prevent this spreading, and no further case occurred. One fatal case of Diarrhœa occurred in the summer, which was not of an infectious nature. With these exceptions the Borough has been free from Zymotic Disease. Towards the close of the year the Borough was again visited by an epidemic of Influenza, mild but far-reaching, which undoubtedly affected to some extent the death rate of the last quarter of the year.

Drainage and  
Sewerage

In the past, the drainage of the Borough has been disposed of in several ways, viz :—

1. By means of brick drains (the larger ones of which were originally watercourses, and have been converted into sewers) which convey the sewage into the river.
2. Middens and cesspools.
3. Dry earth closets (a few.)

From time to time as opportunity has arisen, these brick drains have been gradually removed, and socket pipe drains substituted ; many of them however remain. The size of the middens, etc., has also been reduced where possible. You have at the present time under your consideration a scheme for the more effectual disposal of sewage, and I would suggest with regard to this, that no scheme will be satisfactory which does not provide for the removal of the sewage from these drains, middens, and cesspools, into proper sanitary sewers, and its conveyance to some suitable place where it can be properly treated, and thus prevent the contamination of the river, at the same time abolishing all brick sewers, except in cases where it is advisable to retain these drains to act as water-courses, for which they were originally intended.

#### Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough now is simply from pumps, draw wells, and springs, which in the dry season of the past year, have proved quite inadequate for the wants of the population, especially in the higher parts of the town. At the end of the year, Mr. Berrington, C.E., of Wolverhampton, was instructed to make experiments as to the sufficiency of water, and the quality of the water in the well at the bottom of Dog Lane. If this is found satisfactory in quality and quantity, and you are able to introduce by this means (or failing this, by any other means) a good service of water for the Borough, there is no doubt it will be to the advantage of the inhabitants both in health and comfort, and will tend to enhance materially the popularity of Bewdley as a residential district.

#### Systematic Inspection

Regularly carried out by Mr. Humpherson, (Inspector) and myself.

#### House Accom- modation

Fairly good.

#### Overcrowding

Two cases dealt with.

#### Drainage, Water Supply, Excrement Disposal

See above

#### Scavenging

Done by sanitary cart and contractor.

#### Burial Grounds and Mortuaries

Satisfactory. No mortuaries.

#### Canal Boats

Regularly inspected.

Bakehouses	Regularly inspected.
Slaughter Houses	Regularly inspected.
Common Lodging Houses	None.
Tenement Lodging Houses	During the summer months there is a large number of visitors staying in the Borough, many ordinary dwellings being used for their accommodation, and as there were undoubtedly several cases of temporary overcrowding, I think that it would be well if some system of registration could be adopted with regard to these houses.
Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk Shops	Satisfactory.
Offensive Trades	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act	No case.
Food unfit for human consumption	No necessity for action.
Bye-Laws	Duly observed.
River Pollution	Referred to above.
Industries	Agriculture, Horn Manufacture, Brass-founding, Basket Making, Carpet Making and Wool Spinning, (Kidderminster) Rope Making and Tanning.
Vans & Tents	None except at Fair time, when they were inspected.
Fruit and Hop Pickers	Generally composed of residents.
Factories and Workshops	Regularly inspected and satisfactory.
Special Reports	None.

**Other Points**

Special inspections were made during the year of various parts of the town by your inspector and myself, as a result of which several cases were dealt with according to the requirements of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TREVOR WEBSTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1896, in the Bewdley Urban District,  
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.							
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All Other Diseases	Total
Bewdley	53	13	6	0	1	15	18	Under 5				1	18	19
								5 upwds	2	7	7		17	34
Total.	53	13	6	0	1	15	18	Under 5		5		1	13	19
								5 upwds	2	7	7		17	34

# TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Bewdley Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.		Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.				
Bewdley.	2876.	2876.	84	Under 5	1	
				5 upwds	2	
Totals.	2876.	2876.	84	Under 5	1	
				5 upwds	2	

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? yes. Since when? February, 1891 Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated, none



# TABLE C. URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

Area in Acres, 2070.      Population 1881, 3088.      Population 1891, 2876.      Decrease 1881-91, 212.  
 Estimated Population 1896, 2876.

REGISTERED BIRTHS			REGISTERED <sup>Deaths</sup> <del>DEATHS</del>			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES					
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards
37	47	84	25	28	53	13	6	0	1	15	18

## MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES

Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Cancer	Phthisis	Pneumonia	Bronchitis and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	Other Diseases
1	2	2	6	6	7	1	28

Birth Rate, 29.20.      Death Rate, 18.43.      Zymotic Death Rate, 0.34.      Inf. Mortal., 154 per 1000.      Phthisis Death Rate, 0.69.      Resp. Death Rate, 4.17.      Diarrhoea Death Rate, 0.34.      Cancer Death Rate, 0.69.

TABLE C. (Continued.)

Cases						
...						
...						
...						
	Small Pox.					
	Measles.					
	Scarlatina.					
	Diphtheria.					
	Membraneous Croup.					
	Fever.	1				
	Erysipeleas.	3				
	Puerperal Fever.					

Diseases prevalent, Influenza. Period, End of the year. Schools closed, None.



